

Mr. R. E. Kingsford, M.A., read a paper on "The Campaign of 1815."

The Rebellion of the French nation against Louis XVI. was the protest of humanity against oppression. The French, that lively, courageous and industrious race, deserve the world's thanks for their desperate resolution to inaugurate a new system. Their thoroughness in carrying out the resolve brought upon them the enmity of almost all other nations, but those very nations profit this day by the Revolution, to punish which they invaded France. Even the insular English, then politically a century in advance of the Continent, found that they had much to learn. An impulse was given to aspirations for freedom which was communicated to each of the Continental nations in succession, and this impulse, though impeded from time to time, has never ceased in its action. But just as, in the case of individuals, men suffer in their own persons the consequences of originality, so the French nation bitterly paid for its generous self-sacrifice on the altar of Freedom. A sacred cause was defiled; enthusiasm was replaced by fanaticism; fanaticism gave way after a struggle to charlatanism; charlatanism supported itself by murder. The end was chaos. Out of chaos sprang Napoleon. A man of the sword, he smote with the sword, and he crushed the vermin who, daring to crawl on the statue of liberty, had stained it with their filth. But the statue itself he overturned, and he placed himself on the pedestal. From that eminence he was in turn struck down, but he long held the position by virtue of extraordinary genius, courage and energy. We shall see him make a supreme effort to recover himself, almost succeed, then sink, baffled and exhausted, into a Slough of Despond, from which he was destined never to emerge.

We propose to give a succinct account of the military operations of the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th of June, 1815. A careful examination of the authorities has led us to the opinion that the popular belief of Englishmen and men of English descent with regard to this campaign requires revision, and that there are salient features which have been ignored by most English writers.

The general English idea is that "The Duke" drubbed the French well, and that he never was in serious danger.

The Prussians think, on the other hand, that the English would never have beaten the French but for their help, and that they are,